

THREE SCENARIOS/FOUR REGIONS

The Facilities Steering Task Force determined from the outset that long-range planning should include options that would address (1) steady enrollment, (2) declining enrollment and (3) growing enrollment. The status of enrollment was critical because public school funding is based on the number of students enrolled. Changes in public school funding, controlled at the state legislative level, are not foreseen in the immediate future.

Study of current and projected demographics, local area cities' comprehensive plans, regional land use maps (developed by the Area Planning Organization), district enrollment historical data, building maintenance schedules and residential development projections led to the conclusion that different growth/decline patterns would emerge for different geographical areas within District 742.

Four distinct areas with different growth projections became apparent during the group's discussions. Those four areas have been identified as:

Southeast St. Cloud, an area situated southeast of Talahi, projecting a possible school location on the east side of the Mississippi River relieving capacity stress at Talahi Community School and serving the southeast corner of District 742;

South St. Cloud, an area situated south of Oak Hill Community School, with a school location relieving capacity stress at Oak Hill Community School, and most likely located on 33rd St. S. on property currently owned by District 742;

St. Joseph, an area situated somewhat south and east of the City of St. Joseph serving St. Joseph and the southwest corner of District 742; and

Northside, an area on the northern side that includes all current schools except Kennedy, Oak Hill, Talahi and Clearview that will address the declining population of the northern part of District 742, focusing on the maintenance and/or sale of schools located within St. Cloud proper; there will need to be a redefinition of "north" and "south" within the St. Cloud city boundaries; a list detailing planned maintenance for district-owned buildings during the next 25 years can be found in the Appendix, pages 41-59.

As population changes over the next 20 years are projected to occur within the boundaries of District 742, the Facilities Steering Committee considered action steps that would most likely need to occur within the next three years (short range); 4-7 years (mid-range) and 8-20 years (long range). These short, mid-, and long range plans are presented for each of the four "subdistricts" in both text and map format on the following pages. Each of the four "subdistricts" are examined in the context of steady, declining, and growing enrollment to provide a flexible plan adaptable to a variety of future district enrollment scenarios.